

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board to study and make recommendations for policy and procedural changes, including necessary legislation, to expand its services to persons with spinal cord injuries arising from sudden internal medical conditions not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, R.S. 46:2631 et seq. provides for the development of a rehabilitation program for persons disabled by traumatic head and spinal cord injuries through the establishment of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund to be funded by additional fees imposed on motor vehicle violations in this state for the offenses of driving under the influence, reckless operation, and speeding; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund is to provide Louisiana citizens who survive traumatic head or spinal cord injuries a source of funds for services enabling them to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities; and

WHEREAS, spinal cord injury is defined, for the purposes of the trust fund, as an insult to the spinal cord, not of a degenerative or congenital nature, but caused by an external physical force resulting in paraplegia or quadriplegia; and

WHEREAS, an injury to the spinal cord resulting in a change, either temporary or permanent, in the spinal cord's normal motor, sensory, or autonomic function may be the effect of an acute internal medical event such as a brainstem aneurysm; and

WHEREAS, individuals with spinal cord injuries caused by sudden internal medical conditions are also in need of services enabling them to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities; and

WHEREAS, current statutory authority establishing the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund precludes these individuals from receiving assistance through the trust fund; and

WHEREAS, policy and procedural changes, including legislation, will be necessary to provide essential services through the trust fund to individuals with spinal cord injuries caused by sudden internal medical conditions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board to study and determine the policy and procedural changes, including necessary legislation, required to expand its services to persons with spinal cord injuries arising from sudden internal medical conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE